

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in this Application is claim 26, claims 1-25 and 27-30 being canceled by the current and previous amendments. In view of Applicants' remarks below, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 26 is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the present Amendment After Final be considered and entered, the rejections to the claims be withdrawn, and that the case now be passed to issue.

Objections to the Drawings

The outstanding Office Action has objected to the drawings as not having uniformly thick and well defined line quality.

In response, Applicants have submitted herewith new drawing figures 1-7 to address the Examiner's concerns in this regard.

In light of the amendments and remarks noted above, Applicants assert that the objections to the drawings have been addressed. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is therefore respectfully requested.

Objections to the Claims

The outstanding Office Action has objected to claims 26-30 as containing clerical informalities.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 26 in conformance with the Examiner's suggestions, while canceling claims 27-30 merely in an effort to advance prosecution.

In light of the amendments and remarks noted above, Applicants assert that the objections to the claims have been addressed. Withdrawal of the objections to the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection of Claims 27, 28 and 30 over Naslund

The Examiner has rejected claims 27, 28 and 30 as being anticipated by Naslund.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 27, 28 and 30.

In view of the above, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the existing rejection of claims 27, 28 and 30 on this basis alone.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claim 29 over Naslund

The Examiner has rejected claim 29 as being obvious in view of Naslund.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claim 29.

In view of the above, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the existing rejection of claim 29 on this basis alone.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 26 is allowable, and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present Amendment After Final is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner and contains no new matter. Further, Applicants believe that the present Amendment is merely formal in nature, is in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, reduces the number of issues under consideration and places the case in condition for allowance. Applicants believe the present Amendment was necessitated by the outstanding Final Office Action and

submits that the present amendments to the claims were not previously made as the prior claims were believed to be allowable over the cited prior art.

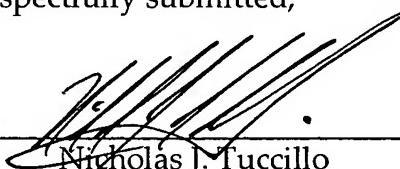
Applicants therefore respectfully request that the present Amendment After Final be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116 and the case be passed to issue.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to expedite resolution of any issues that the Examiner may consider to remain unresolved. In particular, should a Notice of Allowance not be forthcoming, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned for a telephonic interview, an Examiner's Amendment, or the like, while the outstanding issues are fresh in the mind of the Examiner.

It is believed that no fees or deficiencies in fees are owed. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 in the event any fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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